



October 19, 2020

County of Mendocino

501 Low Gap Road

Ukiah, California 95482

Attention: Ms. Carmel Angelo, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Letter of Support
Project Homekey Facility
Best Western Orchard Inn

Dear Ms. Angelo:

I am writing on behalf of Redwood Community Services Inc. to express our support for the proposed Project Homekey Facility located at 555 South Orchard Avenue in Ukiah. Redwood Community Services is a organization committed to providing quality, data-driven, culturally responsive, innovative services to children, youth, adults, and families in Mendocino, Lake, and Humboldt County. RCS works in collaboration with county leaders and agency partners to ensure the availability of rich, dynamic, person-centric services. We are a community-driven, social justice organization dedicated to serving vulnerable populations by providing hope, community, and support. We strive to be the foundation upon which our children, youth, adult, and families build new futures, rewrite their stories, and move from surviving to thriving.

Our programs are developed to meet the needs of our community effectively and appropriately. Our services address identified needs associated with ensuring safe environments for the county's most vulnerable populations, while enhancing their lives and strengthening their families. RCS programs provide supportive services and activities that are committed to helping create lasting relationships.

Our service mission is to empower communities for long term success. Making connections since 1995, Redwood Community Services has built a continuum of programs designed to ensure the best possible outcomes for our most vulnerable populations. From behavioral health to substance abuse, community based to residential, all RCS programs are built to empower, encourage, and sustain success while providing unconditional care and positive connections.

Foster Family Agency | Behavioral Health Services | Family Social Services | Skill Building & Empowerment Services
Crisis Response Services | Transitional Services | Residential Services | Homeless Services | Substance Use Services

Redwood Community Services, Inc.

We understand the project will convert the existing Best Western Orchard Inn from a 56-unit hotel to a 56-unit transitional housing facility, with plans to convert at least half of those units to permanent housing units within 10 years. The facility will provide housing to homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless and set aside rooms for various at-risk populations including seniors, veterans, families, and those requiring respite medical care. This facility will provide an integral piece of the County's social safety net and fill a niche which no current County or partner facility provides.

Establishing this facility in Mendocino County will help our most vulnerable residents secure both transitional and permanent housing at a critical time for our community, amidst an ongoing housing crisis and global pandemic which have disproportionately impacted low-income individuals. This facility will provide a safe and healthy place to live for those most at need, helping them get back on their feet and avoid falling into chronic homelessness.

We look forward to seeing the significant benefits this facility will provide in our community. Please contact me at kellyv@redwoodcommunityservice.org if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Victoria Kelly
Chief Executive Officer